

1 AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

2 Claims 1-18 and 23-26 were pending at the time of the Office Action.

3 Claim 12 is amended, claims 15 and 23-26 are canceled.

4 Claims 1-14 and 16-18 remain pending.

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6 1. (Previously presented) An apparatus, comprising:

7 a membrane including a fiber optic plate configured to direct light from a first
8 side of the membrane to a second side opposite the first side, the first side positioned
9 adjacent to a touchscreen display;

10 a button structure disposed on the second side of the membrane; and

11 a nib corresponding to the button structure and disposed on the first side of the
12 membrane, wherein the apparatus is configured to be operatively coupled to the
13 touchscreen display so that when a user applies a force to the button structure the nib
14 contacts the touchscreen display so as to activate a virtual button being displayed by the
15 touchscreen display.

16 2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the membrane comprises a
17 flexible and resilient material.

18 3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the button structure comprises a
19 translucent portion.

20 4. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the button structure
21 is configured as a remote control.

22 5. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the button structure
23 comprises a haptic structure configured to emit an audible sound.
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1 6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the button structure is one of a
2 plurality of button structures disposed on the membrane, wherein the plurality of button
3 structures implement a QWERTY keyboard.

4 7. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a lighting
5 device to selectively illuminate the button structure, the lighting device including at least
6 one light emitting diode (LED) and a power source.

7 8. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a
8 redirector to change a direction of an infrared beam directed onto the redirector .

9 9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the membrane is sized to be
10 press fitted into a recessed portion of a mobile electronic device, wherein the membrane
11 is disposed within the recess to position the nib in propinquity with the touchscreen
12 display.

13 10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a sleeve to contain a
14 mobile electronic device that includes the touchscreen display, wherein the sleeve is to
15 position the nib in propinquity with the touchscreen display.

16 11. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the button
17 structure and nib are slidably fitted to a guide slot in the membrane, the guide slot
18 constraining the button structure and nib along a guide slot path.
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1 12. (Currently amended) An apparatus to be operatively coupled to a
2 touchscreen display for operating a virtual button displayed by the touchscreen display,
3 the apparatus comprising:

4 a membrane, wherein the membrane comprises a fiber optic plate; and
5 tactile means, coupled to the membrane, for selectively contacting a touchscreen
6 display at a desired location in response to a force exerted on the tactile means by a user,
7 wherein the tactile means further includes a means for slidably contacting the touchscreen
8 display along a pre-determined linear slot.

9 13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the membrane comprises a
10 flexible and resilient material.

11 14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the tactile means comprises a
12 translucent portion.

13 15. (Canceled)

14 16. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the tactile means
15 comprises a haptic structure configured to emit an audible sound.

16 17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the tactile means comprises a
17 plurality of button structures disposed on the membrane, wherein the plurality of button
18 structures implement a QWERTY keyboard.

19 18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising a lighting device to
20 selectively illuminate a portion of the apparatus.

21 19-26. (Canceled)